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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CANBERRA 000374

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EAP/ANP, NP/MNA, AND NP/RA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/24/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KNNP](#) [AORC](#) [PARM](#) [AS](#) [IR](#) [IAEA](#)

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN VIEWS ON STRENGTHENING THE IAEA AND
RAISING IRAN AT THE NEXT BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

REF: A. STATE 21700

- [1](#)B. STATE 30313
- [1](#)C. STATE 31323
- [1](#)D. CANBERRA 322
- [1](#)E. CANBERRA 323
- [1](#)F. CANBERRA 341

Classified By: POLCOUNS WOO LEE FOR REASONS 1.4 (B AND D).

[1](#)1. (C) We presented Ref A demarche on February 7 to DFAT Arms Control Office Director David Mason and ASNO DG John Carlson, and continued discussions during and after the visit of NPT Envoy and CD Ambassador Jackie Sanders (Refs D - F) about the U.S. proposals to strengthen the IAEA. Mason, Carlson and First Assistant Secretary for International Security David Stuart told us the GOA broadly supported the U.S. approach to strengthening the IAEA, but wondered whether the NAM would find it acceptable (Ref F). We raised ref B points with Mason and NPT action officer John Page on February 22. They appreciated the revisions to the Terms of Reference for the IAEA Special Committee and said Australia could accept the U.S. language as written. Mason and Page, however, highlighted what they saw as a disconnect between ref B talking points on the critical issue of Committee membership and the concomitant language in the Terms of Reference (TOR) document, as follows:

Begin excerpt from Ref B talking points:

"We are prepared to modify our position on membership. We can agree that the committee membership shall be open ended. This position, however, is without prejudice to our proposal on membership that we will submit for consideration by the Special Committee, i.e., that countries under investigation for non-technical violations of their nuclear nonproliferation and safeguards obligations should elect not to participate in decisions by the IAEA Board of Governors (BOG) or the Special Committee regarding their own cases."

Begin text from draft Terms of Reference:

"Committee Membership

The Committee should be a Committee of the Board made up of governments in good standing with the IAEA. No states under investigation for proliferation violations should be allowed to serve on the new Special Committee. Any state on the Committee that comes under investigation should recuse itself from the Committee."

[1](#)2. (C) Mason and Page explained that although the language in the Ref B draft Board Decision language matched that in the talking points about committee membership, they believed the reference to "countries under investigation for non-technical violations" needed to be repeated in the TOR document. In addition, they were concerned about the TOR phrase that such countries "should elect not to participate" in decisions by the BOG. This could be viewed as "mandatory," they said, and would therefore be unacceptable to the NAM. Mason proposed a "less strident" phrase, such as: "it would be expected that states under investigation for non-technical violations would recuse themselves" He again emphasized that the GOA itself was satisfied with and would support the overall U.S. approach. His suggested language was intended to help the USG make the approach acceptable to others. Mason especially endorsed the idea of reviving special inspections, as well as the language on identifying the consequences of states withdrawing from the NPT, adding that Australia would present an NPT Article X initiative at the May 2005 NPT Review Conference (septel).

[1](#)3. (C) On February 23, we presented Ref C points on the U.S. remarks at the February 28 BOG about Iran's nuclear programs to Mason and IAEA Iran action officer Sam Roggeveen. Mason and Roggeveen said they were in the process of finalizing the Australian national statement on Iran. They expressed appreciation for the U.S. points and said elements of them would be factored into the Australian statement as appropriate.

STANTON